

6 rows, could hardly be assessed accurately from two pressed specimens. Many writers subsequent to Bentham placed undue emphasis on his statement concerning the leaf "broader for its length than any other species of *Caladenia*" and disregarded his qualification "but not yet fully developed."

—J. R. TONKINSON, Mosman Park.

Unusual Boobook Owl Call.—Storr (*W.A. Nat.*, 4 : 143.) recorded an unusual call of a Boobook Owl (*Ninox novaezeelandiae*) which he likened to a pumping plant, heard on March 12, 1954 at Dunsborough.

A similar call was heard at Carbarup, just north of Mt. Barker, during 1958. Carbarup siding is near a patch of low-lying Wandoo-Yate association providing a suitable habitat for hollow roosting birds. At 2300 hrs. on August 8 there was no moon and the night was still and clear. Three Boobooks were heard calling the normal "boo-book" call, regular calls being given every three to four seconds.

One bird then commenced calling much more rapidly with increasing tempo until at last the first syllable of the call was completely suppressed and only the final "book" was being given. For the first five minutes of the call I counted the "hooks"—450. The call then continued for about another five minutes, so altogether something like a thousand "books" must have been given during the time it lasted. Calling then ceased and all birds were silent.

It is worthy of note also that although the night was extremely dark Western Magpies (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*) were heard calling full carols at the time when the Owls started. At this time of the year moonlight songs might be expected (Robinson, *Emu*, 56 : 282) but calling in complete darkness seems unusual. Possibly the birds were disturbed when my Land Rover drove up.

—ERIC LINDGREN, Shenton Park.

Possible Record of a Yellow-billed Spoonbill near Narrikup.—In addition to the recent records of the Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) in the South-West (*W.A. Nat.*, 6 : 151, 196) is an observation on November 2, 1958 of what appears to be this species at a lake about 4 miles west of Narrikup, locally known as Lake Erie.

The lake is some 40-50 acres in area and is surrounded almost completely by a border of twig rush (*Cladium* sp.). At the time the birds were recorded there was shallow water outside the rushes, covering a firm surface of fodder and small water plants. This is mentioned because in the field I misidentified the birds as Royal Spoonbills (*P. leucorodia*) recording in my notebook that they had a yellow bill and black legs. Checking through Serventy and Whittell, *The Handbook of the Birds of W.A.*, I found that the Royal Spoonbill had black bill and legs and the Yellow-billed species yellow legs and bill. It seemed possible that the bird's legs might have become discoloured by mud, although improbable that they